

# **OVERVIEW OF THE POLICY ACADEMY PROCESS**



**Improving Access to Mainstream Services  
for People Experiencing Chronic  
Homelessness**



# Federal Sponsors

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  - Administration for Children and Families
  - The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
  - Health Resources and Services Administration
  - Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
  - Office of Community Planning and Development
  - Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs



# Federal Sponsors

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Homeless Veterans Programs, Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs
  - Health Care for Homeless Veterans, Veterans Health Administration
- U.S. Department of Labor
  - Employment and Training Administration
  - Veterans Employment and Training Service
  - Office of Disability and Employment Policy
  - Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives



# Collaborating Partners

- American Public Human Services Association
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- National Association of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Directors
- National Association of County and City Health Program Directors
- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
- National Conference of State Legislators
- National Governors Association
- National Head Start Association
- U.S. Conference of Mayors



# What is a Policy Academy?

- Process, not an event
- Technical assistance to help decision makers:
  - Think through policy options
  - Make existing systems and programs more effective and coordinated
- Design and implement new systems and programs



# What is the Purpose of This Academy?

To develop a realistic, State-wide policy initiative (Action Plan) with the intent of:

- Increasing access to mainstream services for people experiencing chronic homelessness
- Enhancing the linkages between services and housing
- Developing prevention strategies



# What are the Objectives of the Policy Academy?

- Bringing stakeholders together to focus on increasing access to mainstream services
- Enhancing coordination, collaboration, and integration among systems providing mainstream and targeted services for people experiencing chronic homelessness
- Identifying and sharing evidence-based practices
- Identifying and coordinating resources

# What's Involved in the Policy Academy Process?

Pre-Meeting Work, Technical Assistance Site Visit, and SWOT Analysis

Formal Academy Meeting  
(On-site Technical Assistance)

Post-Meeting Technical Assistance and Follow-up

National Learning Meeting  
(On-site Technical Assistance)





# Why a Policy Academy?

- Promote strategic planning
- Provide opportunities to learn from other State experiences
- Establish/reinforce dialogue
- Build consensus among stakeholders and plan for change
- Provide technical assistance and develop local capacity



# Team Composition – At Present

**Dept. of Housing & Community  
Development**

**Dept. of Social Services**

**Dept. of Veterans Services**

**VA Coalition for the Homeless**

**VA Housing Development  
Authority**

**Alexandria Community  
Services Board**

**Homeward of Richmond (CoC)**

**Dept. of Medical Assistance  
Services**

**Dept. of Rehabilitative Services**

**VA Dept. of Corrections**

**VA Employment Commission**

**VA Interagency Action Council  
for the Homelessness**

**Fairfax County Health  
Department**

**Dept. of Mental Health, Mental  
Retardation & Substance  
Abuse Services**



# Technical Assistance Partners

- VA Housing Research Center
- Interagency Council on the Homeless – Regional Representative
- HUD – Richmond Office



# Team Outreach

- VA Hospital & Healthcare Association
- Legislators
- VA Municipal League
- VA Healthcare Foundation

# Our Vision Statement



An integrated, community-based system of *individualized* opportunities, services, and housing has ended homelessness in Virginia.



# **Our Slogan**



**Virginia:  
Sharing A Common  
Wealth to End  
Homelessness**

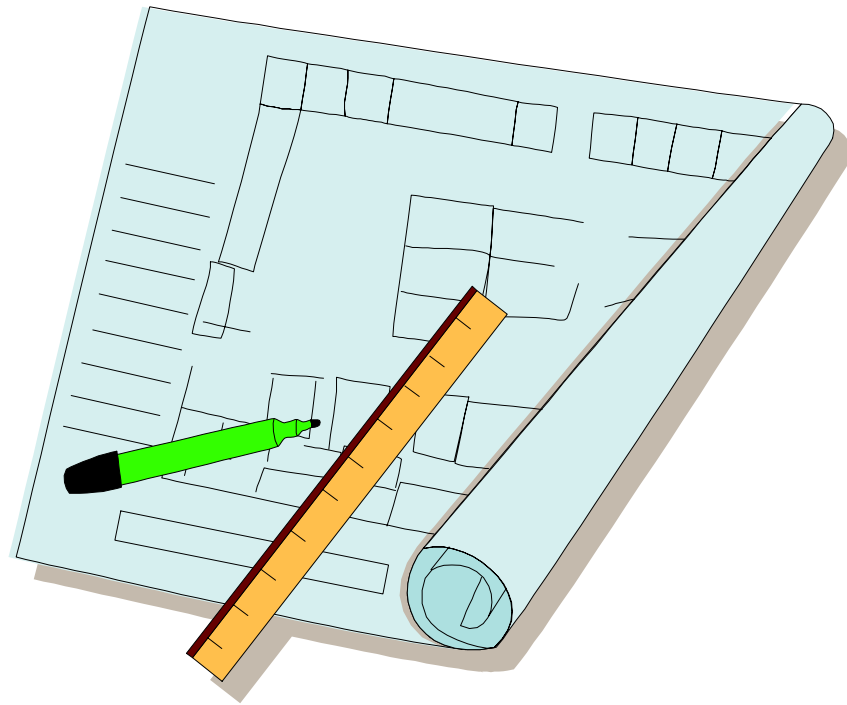


# Team Priorities

1. Affordable continuum of suitable and appropriate housing options
2. Accessible supportive services
3. Prevention initiatives that reduce homelessness
4. Sufficient financial resources
5. An understanding of chronic homelessness  
at all levels

# Strategies & Action Plans

Under Construction –







# Next Steps

- Complete Preliminary Action Plan
- Obtain Sign-Off by Governor's Office
- Submit the Plan for Comment
- Hold Regional Forums
- Make It Happen